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INVESTIGATION OF COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES, NEW YORK AREA—Part VIII (ENTERTAINMENT)

HEARING

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-FOURTH CONGRESS
FIRST SESSION

OCTOBER 14, 1955

Printed for the use of the Committee on Un-American Activities

INCLUDING INDEX



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PESTIGATION OF COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES,
NEW YORK AREA—Part VIII
(ENTERTAINMENT)

COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FRANCIS E. WALTER, Pennsylvania, Chairman

MORGAN M. MOULDER, Missouri CLYDE DOYLE, California JAMES B. FRAZIER, Jr., Tennessee EDWIN E. WILLIS, Louisiana HAROLD H, VELDE, Illinois BERNARD W. KEARNEY, New York DONALD L. JACKSON, California GORDON H. SCHERER, Ohio

THOMAS W. BEALE, Sr., Chief Clerk

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Public Law 601, 79th Congress

The legislation under which the House Committee on Un-American Activities operates is Public Law 601, 79th Congress [1946], chapter 753, 2d session, which provides:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, * * *

PART 2—RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

RULE X

SEC. 121. STANDING COMMITTEES

17. Committee on Un-American Activities, to consist of nine Members.

RULE XI

POWERS AND DUTIES OF COMMITTEES

(q) (1) Committee on Un-American Activities.

(A) Un-American activities.

(2) The Committee on Un-American Actviities, as a whole or by subcommittee, is authorized to make from time to time investigations of (i) the extent, character, and objects of un-American propaganda activities in the United States, (ii) the diffusion within the United States of subversive and un-American propaganda that is instigated from foreign countries or of a domestic origin and attacks the principle of the form of government as guaranteed by our Constitution, and (iii) all other questions in relation thereto that would aid Congress in any necessary remedial legislation.

The Committee on Un-American Activities shall report to the House (or to the Clerk of the House if the House is not in session) the results of any such investi-

gation, together with such recommendations as it deems advisable.

For the purpose of any such investigation, the Committee on Un-American Activities or any subcommittee thereof, is authorized to sit and act at such times and places within the United States, whether or not the House is sitting, has recessed, or has adjourned, to hold such hearings, to require the attendance of such witnesses and the production of such books, papers, and documents, and to take such testimony, as it deems necessary. Subpenas may be issued under the signature of the chairman of the committee or any subcommittee, or by any member designated by any such chairman, and may be served by any person designated by any such chairman or member.

RULES ADOPTED BY THE 84TH CONGRESS

House Resolution 5, January 5, 1955

RULE X

* *

STANDING COMMITTEES

1. There shall be elected by the House, at the commencement of each Congress, the following standing committees:

* * * * * * *

(q) Committee on Un-American Activities, to consist of nine Members.

* * * * * * * *

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INVESTIGATION OF COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES, NEW YORK AREA—PART VIII (ENTERTAINMENT)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1955

United States House of Representatives, SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE COMMITTEE ON UN-AMERICAN ACTIVITIES, Hollywood, Calif.

PUBLIC HEARING

A subcommittee of the Committee on Un-American Activities met, pursuant to call, at 10:45 a.m., in Hollywood, Calif., Hon. Clyde Dovle (chairman) presiding.

Committee members present: Representatives Clyde Doyle and

Donald L. Jackson.

Staff members present: Frank S. Tavenner, Jr., counsel; William

A. Wheeler, investigator.

Mr. Doyle. Let the record show that the full membership of the subcommittee, Representative Jackson, of Los Angeles County, Calif., and Representative Doyle, of Los Angeles County, Calif., is present; this subcommittee having been appointed by the chairman of the Committee on Un-American Activities, Hon. Francis E. Walter, of Pennsylvania, for the purpose of this hearing.

May we ask the cooperation—I know you will give it—of the photography-end of the news world in taking no pictures of the witness while he is testifying and no pictures of the committee, please. Thank

you very much.

Are you ready, Mr. Tavenner?

Mr. TAVENNER. Yes, sir. If you will please swear in the witness, Mr. Mostel.

Mr. Doyle. Mr. Mostel, will you rise and be sworn?

Do you solemnly swear that the evidence you shall give to this subcommittee shall be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Mr. Mostel. I do. Mr. Doyle. Thank you.

TESTIMONY OF SAM (ZERO) MOSTEL, ACCOMPANIED BY COUNSEL. RICHARD GLADSTEIN

Mr. TAVENNER. Will you state your name, please, sir?

Mr. Mostel. My name is Sam Mostel.

Mr. Doyle. Will you spell your last name?

Mr. Mostel. M-o-s-t-e-l.

Mr. Dovle. May I make this statement? I am not sure that counsel with the witness this morning is entirely familiar with our procedure.

Mr. Gladstein. Oh, yes. I have been before the committee before. I assumed that Mr. Tavenner in his usual way was going to get around to asking counsel to state his name for the record, and about question No. 3 or 4, as I remember.

Mr. Tavenner. No; that is the next question.

Will counsel please identify himself for the record?

Mr. Gladstein. Yes; my name is Richard Gladstein, 240 Montgomery Street, San Francisco.

Mr. TAVENNER. When and where were you born, Mr. Mostel?

Mr. Mostel. I was born in 1915, February 28 1915, in Brooklyn. Mr. Tavenner. Where do you now reside, Mr. Mostel?

Mr. Mostel. In New York City.

Mr. TAVENNER. How long have you lived in New York City?

Mr. Mostel. All my life.

Mr. TAVENNER. Will you tell the committee, please, what your formal educational training has been?

Mr. Mostel. I went to the public schools of New York, right

through college.

Mr. TAVENNER. When did you complete your college work?

Mr. Mostel. 1935.

Mr. TAVENNER. Will you tell the committee, please, briefly what the nature of your employment or your profession has been since 1935?

Mr. Mostel. In 1935 I was a painter, an artist, and I worked on WPA as a painter; and subsequently I became an entertainer, in 1942. I have been in the entertainment field since.

Mr. TAVENNER. From 1935 until 1942 you followed the occupation

of an artist?

Mr. Mostel. I called myself an artist. Maybe I am the only one who did. But I also did many odd jobs so I could paint.

Mr. Tavenner. When did you begin your profession as enter-

tainer?

Mr. Mostel. 1942.

Mr. TAVENNER. Since 1942?

Mr. Mostel. Yes.

Mr. Tavenner. What was your first employment as an entertainer?

Mr. Mostel. I worked in a nightclub in New York City.

Mr. TAVENNER. What nightclub was that? Mr. Mostel. Cafe Society, downtown.

Mr. TAVENNER. How long were you employed there?

Mr. Mostel. About a year, I would say.

Mr. TAVENNER. Would that be the year 1942, or did it extend over into 1943?

Mr. Mostel. I believe it did. I'm not too sure.

Mr. Tavenner. What was your next employment?

Mr. Mostel. Then I took work—I worked in many nightclubs, films, theaters, tap shows, that sort of employment; movies.

Mr. TAVENNER. When you say you worked in films, did you mean in the movies?

Mr. Mostel. In the movies.

Mr. TAVENNER. When did your work begin in the movies and where? Mr. Mostel. I did one picture for MGM called Du Barry Was a Lady.

Mr. TAVENNER. What was the date?

Mr. Mostel. 1942.

Mr. TAVENNER. Was that work done in Hollywood or in New York?

Mr. Mostel. Hollywood.

Mr. Tavenner. What was your next film production?

Mr. Mostel. My next film was a picture called Panic in the Streets.

Mr. TAVENNER. Where was that filmed?

Mr. Mostel. In New Orleans. Mr. Tavenner. And what date?

Mr. Mostel. I'm not too sure of the date, but it was about 4 years ago, I believe.

Mr. TAVENNER. During the period of the production of your first

film, how long were you in Hollywood?

Mr. Mostel. About 11 weeks. I'm not too sure, but I would say

about 11 weeks or 10 weeks.

Mr. TAVENNER. Were you in California at any time between 1942, when you produced that film, and the present time for the purpose of carrying on your profession?

Mr. Mostel. I didn't understand the question.

Mr. Tavenner. Were you in Hollywood or in the State of California at any time after 1942 for the purpose of carrying on your profession?

Mr. Mostel. Oh, yes; I was. I then did films for—I did several independent films for Columbia, Warner Bros., and I was signed to a contract with Twentieth Century-Fox. Or is it the Eighteenth Century-Fox? I don't recall. Twentieth Century-Fox.

Mr. TAVENNER. What was the date of your work here in California? Mr. Mostel. Well, I worked sort of free lance until I got this con-

tract, and then I stayed here for the term of my contract.

Mr. TAVENNER. For how long a period was that?

Mr. Mostel. About a year, I would say.

Mr. TAVENNER. What year?

Mr. Mostel. I would say it was 3 years ago, or 31/2 years ago.

Mr. TAVENNER. Did your work require you to be here from time to time?

Mr. Mostel. Yes. Oh, I not only worked in films here. I also

recently did a play here, Lunatics and Lovers.

Mr. TAVENNER. What I am trying to find out is whether from 1942 up to the present time your work required you to be here in California from time to time.

Mr. Mostel. From time to time. Mr. Tavenner. Intermittently. Mr. Mostel. Oh, yes, of course.

Mr. Tavenner. Would you say it was as often as once a year?

Mr. Mostel. There was quite a hiatus between the 1942 film to Panic in the Streets, which was done in New Orleans. And then after that—in other words, I suppose 1940, 1941, 1951—that's about 7 years. So I would say the next time I appeared was 8 years later in a film.

the greatest artistic thing that has ever come down the pike, called

The Enforcer, with Humphrey Bogart.

Mr. TAVENNER. Mr. Mostel, the records of the committee show that you were subpensed on July 19, 1955, to appear in New York for hearings by this committee on August 19, 1955. After the service of a subpena on you we understand you came to the west coast in connection with some play you were engaged in, and your counsel in New York called the committee and represented that it would work quite a hardship on you to require you to come back for an appearance on August 19. And because of that the committee agreed to postpone your appearance.

Mr. Mostel. I want to thank the committee.

Mr. TAVENNER. And that is the reason for your being here now. Mr. Mostel. I wish to thank the committee formally for disposing

of that time. It would have worked a hardship on the cast. Mr. Doyle. We always try to cooperate in those cases.

Mr. Tavenner. You stated your first employment in the field of entertainment was with Cafe Society in 1943.

Mr. Mostel. 1942.

Mr. Tavenner. Who assisted you in obtaining that employment?

Mr. GLADSTEIN. If anyone.

Mr. Mostel. Nobody assisted me. I auditioned, and quite a period elapsed before I was actually then hired for the job.

Mr. TAVENNER. Who hired you?

Mr. Mostel. Well, actually I believe it was Barney Josephson.

Mr. TAVENNER. Was Barney Josephson the owner of the Cafe Society at that time?

Mr. Mostel. Yes. Mr. Tavenner. Was Ivan Black connected with Cafe Society at

Mr. Mostel. He was the public relations man for it.

Mr. Tavenner. Did he play any part in your employment?

Mr. Mostel. Well, people say all sorts of things about entertainers; but I entertain, and I don't know the part he played in my employment. I was paid by the Cafe Society Corp.

Mr. Tavenner. You are also known by "Zero" as a nickname, are

vou not?

Mr. Mostel. Yes, sir. After my financial standing in the community, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. Was it Ivan Black who gave you that name?

Mr. Mostel. Well, that's also a story. I don't know who gave it to me, actually. He claims to have, I suppose. Maybe he did; I don't know.

Mr. Tavenner. Had you known Ivan Black before you became employed at Cafe Society?

Mr. Mostel. No, sir.

Mr. Tavenner. Were you a member of the Young Communist League prior to being employed at Cafe Society?

Mr. Mostel. That has nothing to do with my employment, obviously, your question.

Mr. TAVENNER. My question was whether or not you were a member of the Young Communist League at any time before you were employed.

 $\hat{\mathbf{M}}$ r. Mostel. I refuse to answer that question on the grounds of the

fifth amendment.

Mr. Tavenner. During the period of the 1 year when you were employed by Cafe Society, did you become well acquainted with Ivan

Black?

Mr. Mostel. I would say I became acquainted to the extent that it was a business relationship. As a matter of fact, personally my attitude toward press agents is not one of the most complimentary kind, and I thought he was a necessity for a man who was in the entertainment field. He was not my great friend, although a friend.

Mr. Tavenner. While engaged in your employment at Cafe Society did you acquire knowledge, personal knowledge, that Ivan Black was

a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. Mostel. May I confer with my attorney a moment?

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. Mostel. Do you mind if I hesitate a moment?

Mr. Doyle. Take your time.

Mr. Mostel. It is a problem, it seems to me. That's why I am taking my time answering this question on these private opinions, because I am not too clear on certain things; but I will be glad to answer any questions of that sort where I don't have to talk about other individuals

Mr. TAVENNER. May I ask that the witness be directed to answer! Mr. Doyle. We are not satisfied with that answer, Witness, as being

sufficient, and therefore I direct you to answer the question.

Mr. Mostel. Well, then, I refuse to answer this question under the constitutional privileges which I have, which includes the fifth amendment.

Mr. Doyle. Very well.

Mr. Tavenner. Are you acquainted with a person by the name of

Martin Berkeley?

Mr. Mostel. Is he there again? I hesitate to answer about him, because I don't recall ever meeting him or knowing him. I don't know who he is. I know about him from the newspapers, of course, but I don't know whether he knows me, and I don't know whether I met him or whether he met me. But I have to decline on the previous grounds that I have stated.

Mr. TAVENNER. You mean for the same reason?

Mr. Mostel. Yes, fifth amendment. Mr. Tavenner. That you gave before?

Mr. Mostel. Yes.

Mr. TAVENNER. Mr. Berkeley testified before this committee on January 29, 1952, relating to you as follows:

Zero Mostel, I met him in Hollywood, I will have to say around 1938-

Mr. Mostel. That's a— Mr. Tavenner. All right. Mr. Mostel. I wasn't—

Mr. TAVENNER. All right. Now, what is your reply?

Mr. Mostel. Nothing, sir. You haven't asked me a question yet.

Mr. TAVENNER. You made a statement which I understood to mean that you were not here in 1938.

Mr. Mostel. I was not here in 1938. I was not here previous to

1942.

Mr. Tavenner. Were you acquainted with Lionel Stander?

Mr. Mostel. Yes, sir; fine actor, a very talented man.

Mr. TAVENNER. Continuing with Mr. Berkeley's testimony, and repeating what I read:

Zero Mostel, I met him in Hollywood, I will have to say around 1938, at the home of Lionel Stander. There was a meeting of the writers' fraction at which I was present, and he was among those who were there.

Mr. Mostel. I think Mr. Berkeley is in complete error. I was never here in 1938. I did not know Mr. Stander in 1938. I was a painter.

Mr. TAVENNER. When did you first become acquainted with Mr.

Lionel Stander?

Mr. Mostel. I don't recall exactly the circumstance.

Mr. Tavenner. Was it in 1942 when you played in or produced

your first movie in Hollywood?

Mr. Mostel. I couldn't tell you, sir. I wouldn't know that. I don't recall. It eludes my memory completely. I know I met him. I met him quite a few years ago, but not in 1938, 1939, 1940, or 1941, not in those 4 years.

Mr. TAVENNER. But in 1942 you are not certain?

Mr. Mostel. I am not very certain; no, sir; I might have.

Mr. TAVENNER. Did you attend a meeting in the home of Mr. Stander at which Mr. Martin Berkeley was present?

Mr. Mostel. I have never been in the home of Mr. Stander in what-

ever city I may have run across him.

Mr. TAVENNER. Did you attend a fraction meeting of the Communist Party in the home of Lionel Stander in 1942 or any other time?

Mr. Mostel. I have already answered that by saying I have never

been at the home of Mr. Stander at any time.

Mr. TAVENNER. Were you a member of the Communist Party in 1942?

Mr. Mostel. I refuse to answer that question on the grounds previously stated, sir, constitutional liberties, which I hear are granted to every individual in this land.

Mr. Jackson. And which the committee does not question.

Mr. Mostel. I am sure it doesn't.

Mr. TAVENNER. Mr. Mostel, during the course of our hearings in August in New York City and also during the course of other hearings the committee has heard evidence of the assistance given by various persons to the Communist Party by entertaining at Communist Party functions, at public meetings that have been initiated by the Communist Party and at-cause meetings, as they have been often referred to, initiated by the Communist Party, as well as meetings held by organizations commonly known and referred to as Communist front organizations.

Mr. Mostel. And many other types of meetings which were held for cancer, heart, common colds, and a host of other favorites.

Mr. TAVENNER. Yes; I imagine the same people who performed for the Communist Party performed for many other organizations and groups. The committee heard evidence, for instance, by George Hall that his function in the Communist Party in New York City was to assist the Communist Party at fund-raising campaigns by entertainment.

Mr. Mostel. Which is a far cry from the accusation that the sole

function of the Communists is to overthrow the Government.

Mr. TAVENNER. I would like to ask you some questions about entertainment in which you have engaged in the past or which you

have been alleged to have engaged in.

I have before me a photostatic copy of the December 21, 1943, issue of New Masses, page 31, where there appears one-third page advertising entitled "Fund for Freedom," by the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee. It is advertised for December 26 of that year. Do you recall having engaged in that entertainment for the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee?

Mr. Mostel. Sir, could I see it? It might refresh my memory.

Mr. TAVENNER. Yes, sir.

Mr. Mostel. Was this an organization on the Attorney General's subversive list?

Mr. TAVENNER. Yes, sir.

Mr. Mostel. Then I decline to answer that question.

Mr. TAVENNER. I hand you now an advertisement of the American Youth for Democracy entitled "Support the Maritime Workers." It shows an entertainment to be given on June 14, 1946. It is called a Youth Rally. Entertainment is to be furnished by, among others, Zero Mostel, according to the advertisement.

Will you examine it, please, and state whether or not you took part

in that program for the American Youth of Democracy!

Mr. Mostel. May I confer with my attorney! I am sorry I didn't ask you.

Mr. Doyle. Yes, sir. You may confer with your counsel at any time. We are glad to have you do that.

(The witness conferred with his counsel.)

Mr. Mostel. Sir, I don't recall about this at all. But is this organization on the Attorney General's subversive list as well?

Mr. TAVENNER. Yes. I will read the citation:

American Youth for Democracy cited as subversive and Communist by Attorney General Tom Clark December 4, 1947, and again on September 21, 1948; cited by the Special Committee on Un-American Activities March 29, 1944, as the new name under which the Young Communists League operates and which also largely absorbed the American Youth Congress.

Mr. Mostel. Well, then, I have to decline to answer that, sir.

Mr. Doyle. May I suggest that it be understood between the witness and the committee and the witness' counsel that wherever the witness says he declines to answer he intends to state that he relies upon his constitutional privilege of the fifth amendment?

Mr. Gladstein. Yes; I think that is correct.

Mr. Doyle. Is that satisfactory?

Mr. Mostel. Yes. I therefore decline to answer on my constitutional privileges.

Incidentally, there are some fine names on it: Durante and Milton Berle, Georgia Sothern.

Mr. Jackson. None of whom has been identified in open session as members of the Communist Party, however.

Mr. Mostel. But, sir, the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee

was on the Attorney General's list.

Mr. Jackson. Yes; but the names you mentioned. There is no question but what some very worthwhile performances were given by people who were entirely sincere in their motivation and who knew nothing of the Communist Party at all. I daresay if Mr. Durante and Mr. Berle were in your position today they would probably deny most vehemently that they had ever been members of the Communist Party. There is a significant difference in the nature of the testimony.

Mr. Mostel. But it is not my point. My point is that, nevertheless, the organization for which they appeared apparently here—my memory isn't clear on that—was declared subversive by the Attorney General's list long after the inception of that particular organization. Also, what I understand of your questioning, sir, I wasn't accused or said to be a member of the Communist Party. You said that the testimony you have against me is that Mr. Berkeley had said I attended a fraction meeting in a certain year, when I wasn't at that place.

Mr. Jackson. Certainly, Mr. Chairman, reverting back to that point, if Mr. Mostel says he was not here at that time it seems to me that would be a misuse of the constitutional amendment, because an

answer to the question would not tend to incriminate him.

Mr. Doyle. That's right.

Mr. Jackson. And in light of that, I am quite unsatisfied with the reliance on the amendment, and I ask the direction be given again on the question previously asked by counsel in that regard. If Mr. Mostel was not here at that time, if he was not in the city of Los Angeles, then a truthful answer to the question will not incriminate him.

Mr. Mostel. I answered one question and I answered a fact, when I was asked was I a member of several organizations—I don't recall the organization at this moment—I relied on my constitutional privileges. But to the fact that if I were present at this meeting. I vehemently deny I was there since it was physically impossible. So, therefore, I am relying on my constitutional privilege, I feel. I am not a big legal brain.

Mr. Doyle. Do you want that question read, Mr. Jackson?

Mr. JACKSON. I would like to go back to make it perfectly clear. This was at the outset of your questioning having to do with the Martin Berkeley matter.

Were you a member of the Communist Party or of a Communist

fraction of the party in 1938 in the State of California?

Mr. Mostel. Now you are asking me

Mr. Jackson. If during 1938 were you a member of the Communist Party or of a so-called Communist fraction in the city of Los Angeles

or in the State of California?

Mr. Mostel. That question I have to answer several ways. Obviously I was never in California until 1942. But on all questions in the nature of asking me about my political affiliations I wish to rely upon my constitutional privileges under the fifth amendment.

Mr. Jackson. I ask that direction be given inasmuch as the witness has volunteered the information that he was not in Los Angeles

or in the State of California at that time.

Mr. Doyle. You understand, Witness, we are not satisfied with the answer you have given as a sufficient answer, and therefore I direct you to expressly answer the question.

Mr. Mostel. I decline to answer that question on my constitutional privilege.

Mr. Doyle. Very well.

Mr. Jackson. Let the record show that I am not satisfied with the answer and believe it to be an improper use of the fifth amendment.

Mr. Doyle. Let the record show that I believe the same. Mr. Gladstein. May counsel ask a question of you gentlemen?

I know it is not your rule to allow it, but under the circumstances, since you have both laid it on the record that you are not satisfied with the answer, I think the witness should be given the courtesy of having you state just why.

Mr. Doyle. Of course, we do not have time or opportunity, as

counsel knows, to enter into legal arguments.

Mr. GLADSTEIN. I appreciate that.

Mr. Doyle. It is not a court, and under the decisions of the Supreme Court, as you know, counsel, it is the duty of the committee to make it clear to the witness that we are not satisfied with an answer, and

that is what I am doing.

Mr. Jackson. May I further explain my position on it so it will be very clear? The witness voluntarily made a statement that he was not in the city of Los Angeles or in the State of California at the time certain events are alleged to have taken place which was not in response to a direct inquiry by the committee. This was a voluntary statement on his part. Therefore, I am not satisfied with the use of the amendment in reply to a question which deals with that specific period of time. For the witness to volunteer the statement that he was not in this area at the time the alleged events took place and then later to refuse to answer substantially the same question is to me an improper use of the amendment.

Mr. Gladstein. Well, if I may just state, the witness—

Mr. Doyle. Let's proceed, please—This is no place for legal argument.—Mr. Jackson has frankly stated his position.—So let's proceed.

Mr. GLADSTEIN. Very well.

Mr. Mostel. May I say something?

Mr. Doyle. Certainly.

Mr. Mostel. From my limited understanding—and I appreciate your argument very much, Representative Jackson—I don't know. I understand completely your point, sir. My feeling is that when you ask me something about being physically present somewhere, then I will tell you if I were present somewhere according to the circumstances; but if I am asked as a physical fact if I was there and it was physically impossible for me to be there, I have to tell the truth in that way.

Mr. Doyle. I think you always have to tell the truth, of course.

Mr. Jackson. I want to make this very clear. The point is if you were not in the city of Los Angeles and the State of California at that time, the answer to any allegation or statement that might have been made relative to your activities at that time could not possibly incriminate you, in my humble opinion. I think, however, that it is clear on the record as to what position I take on it.

Mr. Doyle. I think it is. Let's proceed.

Mr. Tavenner. Mr. Mostel, the last document handed to you related to the youth rally held by American Youth for Democracy. Were you a member of American Youth for Democracy?

Mr. Mostel. Well, I decline to answer that on my previously stated

grounds, relying on the constitutional privilege.

Mr. TAVENNER. Were you aware that in a report returned by this committee in 1948 on American Youth for Democracy that it was stated there that you were an AYD member? Were you aware of the fact that that had been so stated?

Mr. Mostel. I decline to answer that question on the previously

stated grounds, constitutional amendment.

Mr. TAVENNER. I desire to offer the flier issued by the American Youth for Democracy in evidence, and ask that it be marked "Mostel Exhibit No. 1" for identification purposes and to be made a part of the committee files.

Mr. Doyle. It will be so received and so marked.

Mr. Mostel. What does that mean?

Mr. Doyle. It means we put it in our files of the record of this

hearing

Mr. Tavenner. Mr. Mostel, you mentioned the names of several people in connection with the flier or the advertisement put out by the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee. A little while ago you told us you would not mention the names of other people. I assume you have reconsidered your position. So I want to go back now and ask you to tell us whether or not Ivan Black was known to you to be a member of the Communist Party.

Mr. Mostel. Well, I was merely reading that, you know, without telling you whether I know them or not. On the question of the name Ivan Black, I decline to answer on the previously stated grounds,

constitutional grounds, sir. I forgot to put that in.

Mr. TAVENNER. I have before me a photostatic copy of an advertisement by a Voice of Freedom Committee of a rally and show to be held at Town Hall, Thursday, May 8, 1947, New York City, together with a program of that rally. On the advertisement appears the name of Zero Mostel as one of the entertainers. Do you recall whether or not you engaged in the entertainment on that occasion?

Mr. Mostel. May I see that, sir! Is this organization on the At-

torney General's subversive list?

Mr. Jackson. Voice of Freedom.

Mr. Jackson. Voice of Freedom. Mr. Mostel. Voice of Freedom Committee.

Mr. Tavenner. Voice of Freedom was cited by the Attorney General of the United States as a Communist organization subsequent to the issuance of our guide to subversive organizations.

Mr. Mostel. I refuse to answer—I refuse to answer this question

on the previously stated constitutional grounds.

Mr. Jackson. Held on May 8, 1947. Mr. Mostel. Oh, 8:15 it says, p. m.

Mr. TAVENNER. I desire to introduce the document in evidence and ask that it be marked "Mostel Exhibit No. 2" for identification purposes and to be made a part of the committee files.

Mr. Doyle. It will be so received and so marked.

Mr. TAVENNER. I have now before me a photostatic copy of a flier advertising a public meeting under the auspices of Mainstream. The flier is entitled "Artists Fight Back Against Un-American Thought Control." The speakers include Zero Mostel.

Will you examine it and state whether or not you were a speaker on that occasion?

Mr. Mostel. I decline to answer that on the question on the previously stated grounds, constitutional grounds. You have more handbills about myself than I have.

Mr. Tavenner. I desire to offer the document in evidence and ask that it be marked "Mostel Exhibit No. 3" for identification purposes

and to be made a part of the committee files.

Mr. Doyle. It will be so received and so marked.

Mr. TAVENNER. Will you tell this committee whether or not, on June 16, 1947, you entertained at a meeting held in the city of Washington under the auspices of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare?

Mr. Mostel. Have you got some document on that at all?

Mr. TAVENNER. No; I am referring to the report that this committee issued on that organization, when it cited the organization.

Mr. Mostel. I decline to answer that on the same constitutional

grounds.

Mr. Tavenner. Were you one of the sponsors of Artists' Front To

Win the War program held in Carnegie Hall, October 16, 1942?

Mr. Mostel. I decline to answer that question on the same constitu-

tional grounds.

Mr. TAVENNER. I offer in evidence photostatic copy of the frontispiece of the above-mentioned program together with the names of the sponsors, among which the name Zero Mostel appears, and ask that it be marked "Mostel Exhibit No. 4," and that it be incorporated in the transcript of the record.

Mr. Doyle. It will be so received and so marked.

Mostel Exhibit No. 4

We believe that artists are the spokesmen of democracy's culture and ideals, which Hitler has sworn to destroy, and that we have a responsibility to act and speak now, when these traditions stand in such mortal danger.

ARTISTS' FRONT TO WIN THE WAR

CARNEGIE HALL, October 16, 1942

Sponsors:

THEATRE

Boris Aronson Larry Adler John Murray Anderson Edith Atwater Lemuel Ayers Theron Bamberger Howard Bay Norman Bel Geddes Mrs. Gertrude Berg Aline Bernstein Philip Bourneuf Bertram Bloch Francizka Boas Paul Boepple Asa Bordages Ben Boyar Horace Braham J. Edward Bromberg Helen Brooks Himan Brown John Byram Edward A. Byron Morris Carnovsky Louis H. Chalif Stewart Chaney Michael Chekhov **Edward Choate** Peggy Clark Janet Cohen Jack Cole Constance Collier Gladys Cooper John Craven Jules Dassin Mme. Tamara Daykarhanova Agnes De Mille Paul Douglas Eddie Dowling Todd Duncan Jack Durant Elspeth Eric Judith Evelyn Jose Ferrer Virginia Field Gae Foster Martin Gabel John E. Gibbs Max Gordon Mordecai Gorelik Ben Grauer Mitzi Green Harry Wagstaff Gribble Axel Gruenberg Jack Guilford

Uta Hagen Margie Hart Teddy Hart George Heller Burnet Hershey Alan Hewitt Hildegarde Hanya Holm **Emily Holt** Arthur Hopkins Miriam Hopkins Harry Horner Norris Houghton Henry Hull Dori- Humphrey Rex Ingram Henry Jaffe Raymond Edward Johnson Bill Johnstone Nat Karson Elia Kazan Gene Kelly Adelaide Klein Peggy Knudsen Elissa Landi Charles Laughton K. Elmo Lawe Paula Lawrence Canada Lee Samuel Leve Irene Lewisohn Margaret Linley Norman Lloyd Katherine Locke Philip Loeb Avon Long Eleanor Lynn Bruce MacFarlane Aline MacMahon Mary Margaret McBride Frederic McConnell Byron McGrath Paul McGrath Margo Sanford Meisner Philip Merivale Gilbert Miller Karen Morley Geraldine Morris Zero Mostel Jean Muir Daniel Nagrin Yeichi Nimura Santos Ortega A. L. Ostrander Lisa Parnova Patricia Peardon Irving Pichel Jane Pickens Erwin Piscator Minerva Pious Vincent Price

James Proctor Alan Reed James F. Reilly Hugh Rennie Flora Robson William N. Robson David Ross Selena Royle Cesar Saerchinger Victor Samrock Jimmy Savo Joseph Schildkraut Thelma Schnee Gilbert Seldes Oscar Serlin Anne Seymour Herman Shumlin Everett Sloane Edward Sobol Moses Smith Johannes Steel William Stern Margot Stevenson Beatrice Straight William Sweets Helen Tamiri-Paul Tchelitchew Norman Tokar Shepard Traube Paula Trueman Anthony Tudor Frank Tuttle Valentina Lester Vail Margaret Webster Betty Winkler Dame May Whitty A. H. Woods Leslie Woods Keenan Wynn Roland Young Benjamin Zemach

MUSIC

Emil G. Balzer Ethel Bartlett Bela Bartok Ben Bernie Vera Brodsky Adolph Busch Aaron Copland Xavier Cugat Dean Dixon Duke Ellington Mischa Elman William Feinberg Fred Fradkin Raya Garbousova Eugene Goossens Morton Gould

Mr. TAVENNER. I have before me a photostatic copy of a letter of October 24, 1945, on the stationery of the Spanish Refugee Appeal of the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee, from which appears a list of sponsors. Will you examine the letterhead, please, and state whether or not you see your name as one of the sponsors?

Mr. Gladstein. Doesn't the document speak for itself?

Mr. Mostel. I decline to answer this question on the same constitu-

tional grounds.

Mr. TAVENNER. I have before me a photostatic copy of a letter bearing the date of January 21, 1946, on the letterhead of the American Committee for Spanish Freedom. It is a letter written by the American Committee for Spanish Freedom to the chairman of this committee.

Mr. Mostel. That was foolhardy.

Mr. TAVENNER. Will you examine the list of sponsors appearing on page 2——

Mr. Mostel. Yes, I will.

Mr. TAVENNER. And state whether or not your name appears there as one of the sponsors.

Mr. Mostel. I decline to answer on the previously stated grounds,

my constitutional rights.

Mr. TAVENNER. I have before me a photostatic copy of part of page 12 of the April 30, 1947, edition of PM, showing almost a half-page advertisement by Arts, Sciences, and Professions for May Day. Will you examine the document, please, and state whether or not your name appears in the advertisement as one of the sponsors?

Mr. Doyle. I think there is a red underscoring appearing on the

face of the document by the name of Zero Mostel.

Mr. Mostel. I wish it were a blue line.

I decline to answer this question on the previous grounds, my con-

stitutional rights.

Mr. TAVENNER. I desire to offer the document in evidence, and ask that it be marked "Mostel Exhibit No. 5" and incorporated in the transcript of the record.

Mr. Doyle. So received and so marked.

MOSTEL EXHIBIT No. 5

Arts, Sciences and Professions

for

MAY DAY

* * *

Labor's cause is our cause.

May Day is one of the proudest holidays America knows.

Like Thanksgiving, May Day was born in America. The first May Day was held in Chicago in 1886—and in the years since, May Day has become a part of the best American tradition.

For those who practice in our fields in the arts, the sciences, and the professions, May Day has an added significance this year. Never before has the tide of reaction in America run so strong; never before was the threat of fascism, of the extinction of all civil liberties so great.

If fascism should triumph in America, we would pay the fullest price. We in particular can live and work only as free men. Therefore, we join with labor in the great May Day demonstration for peace, security and freedom. We add our strength to the strength of the masses of people who cherish democracy.

WE ASK YOU TO JOIN WITH US! WE ASK YOU TO MARCH WITH US! ONLY THE STRENGTH OF THE PEOPLE CAN HALT THE TIDE OF REACTION! AND ONLY ON DAYS LIKE MAY DAY CAN THE STRENGTH OF THE PEOPLE BE SO CLEARLY SHOWN!

Our section of the parade assembles at 38th Street, between Eighth and Ninth Avenues at three o'clock on May 1st.

LOOK FOR OUR BANNERS!

Whether you be physician, dentist, lawyer, artist, writer, musician, teacher, clergyman, actor, dancer, accountant — or just a plain citizen who wants to march by his fellow man, your place is with us.

JOIN US THERE!

SPONSORS

Maxwell Gordon

Ralph Akwang
Maurice Becker
Waiter Bernstein
Mare Blitzstein
Emanuel H. Block
Richard O. Boyer
Joseph R. Brodsky
Harold I. Cammer
Robert Carse
Nellise Child
Edward Chodorov
Jerome Chodorov
Herome Chodorov
Bert Clark
Earl Conrad
Earnest Crichlow
Rev. John W. Darr, Jr.
Dr. Leon Davidoff
Armaud d'Usseau
Susan d'Usseau
Philip Evergood
Howard Fast
Sol L. Firstenberg
Louis Fleischer
David M. Freedman
Milton H. Friedman
Louise Fitch
Will Geer
Ruth Gikow
Herta Claz

James Gow Shirley Graham Harry Granick William Gropper Chaim Gross Robert Gwathmey Uta Hagen Minna Harkavy Nat Hiken Libby Holman Langston Hughes Charles Humboldt Charles Irving Abraham J. Isserman Mervin Jules George Keane Donna Keith Rockwell Kent Carol King Alfred Kreymborg Millard Lampell S. Lev Landau Daniel Lapidus Dr. Edward Lasker Maxim Leiber Ray Lev Jack Levine Rev. David N. Licorish Louise Malley Rev. Jack R. McMichael Rev. William H. Melish Eve Merriam
Dr. Marc Moreland
Zero Mostel
Samuel A. Neuburger
Edna Ocko
Arthur Pollock
Anton Refregier
Philip Reisman
Paul Robeson
Herman Mosenfeld
Leon Rothier
Barnard Rubin
Matthew Silverman
Viola Brothers Shore
Jerome Snyder
Moses Sover
Joseph Spenser
Rev. William B. Spofford, Jr.
William L. Standard
Harry Sternberg
William M. Sweets
Abraham Unger
Louis Untermeyer
Hilda Vaughn
Rev. Dr. Harry F. Ward
Theodore Ward
Max Weber
Irving Wexler
Charles White
Nathan Witt
William B. Torach

Mr. TAVENNER. I have before me a photostatic copy of a letter bearing date of June 16, 1947, on the letterhead of Voice of Freedom Committee, which shows on its margin the names of the sponsors of the organization. Will you examine it, please, and state whether or not you see there the name of Zero Mostel underscored in red as one of the sponsors?

Mr. Doyle. For his convenience I call the attention of the witness to

a red line under the name of Zero Mostel on that letter.

Mr. Mostel. I decline to answer this question on the same stated

grounds, constitutional liberties.

Mr. TAVENNER. In the following of your profession, Mr. Mostel, did you become a member of Actors' Equity Association in New York City?

Mr. Mostel. Well, I am a member of the Equity. Otherwise, I

couldn't work on the stage.

Mr. Tavenner. Are you—

Mr. Mostel. I am a senior member of Equity.

Mr. TAVENNER. Did you also become a member of American Federation of Television and Radio Artists?

Mr. Mostel. No, sir. I have been blacklisted on television.

Mr. TAVENNER. You are now a member of Actors Equity Association?

Mr. Mostel. Yes; I have to be.

Mr. TAVENNER. During the period of your membership in 1948 were you aware of an effort made by a group of individuals within the Actors Equity to solicit the assistance of Actors Equity in behalf of the 11 Communists on trial under the Smith Act in the City of New York?

Mr. Mostel. Your question is, am I aware of this?

Mr. TAVENNER. Yes.

Mr. Mostel. I decline to answer that question on the previously

stated constitutional grounds.

Mr. TAVENNER. Have you at any time been aware of the existence of an organized group of members of the Communist Party in the city of New York who were members—or, at least, most of whom were members—of Actors' Equity?

Mr. Mostel. I have to decline to answer that question as well, on

my constitutional privileges.

Mr. TAVENNER. I have no further questions.

Mr. Doyle. Mr. Jackson?

Mr. Tavenner. I want to ask another question or two.

Have you been a member of the Communist Party at any time while you have been a member of Actors' Equity Association?

Mr. Mostel. I decline to answer that question, on the same con-

stitutional grounds.

Mr. TAVENNER. Are you now a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. Mostel. I am not.

Mr. TAVENNER. You are not?

Mr. Mostel. No, sir.

Mr. TAVENNER. Were you a member of the Communist Party on July 7, 1955, when you were subpensed before this committee?

Mr. Moster. I decline to answer that question on the previously

stated constitutional grounds.

Mr. TAVENNER. Were you a member of the Communist Party at the time your counsel requested a postponement of your appearance before the committee, which was on August 17, 1955?

Mr. Mostel. I decline to answer that question as well, on my consti-

tutional privileges.

Mr. Tavenner. Were you a member of the Communist Party when you received your subpena to appear here today?

Mr. Mostel. I decline to answer that question as well, on my consti-

tutional grounds.

Mr. Tavenner. Were you a member of the Communist Party when you entered this hearing room?

Mr. Mostel. No.

Mr. TAVENNER. When did you cease to be a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. Mostel. I decline to answer that question on my constitutional

grounds.

Mr. Tavenner. Were you a member of the Communist Party vesterday?

Mr. Mostel. I decline to answer that question, on my same consti-

tutional grounds.

Mr. TAVENNER. I have no further questions.

Mr. Jackson. I have no questions, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Doyle. I wish to make this statement briefly for the committee. Mr. Jackson and I, the subcommittee of the full committee of nine, are here operating under the Public Law 601. The 79th Congress assigned to the Committee of the House on Un-American Activities the duty of investigating un-American subversive activities wherever they exist in our country, whether they come from some foreign country or arise domestically.

May I state—and I know Mr. Jackson would join me in this—that we never look forward with pleasure to this sort of hearing or any hearing by this committee where any American citizen is being cross-

examined. We do not look forward to it with pleasure.

Mr. Mostel. I sure don't, either.

Mr. Doyle. You must realize that. But it is an assignment that we have by Congress, and we are to do it fully and to the best of our

ability.

On the other hand, we do know that there are some subversive people in our country who do advocate, when it suits their convenience, the forceful and violent overthrow of our Government. know they exist.

Do you remember Mr. Tavenner asking you if you knew George Hall? And he stated that George Hall had testified that his job in

the Communist Party was to entertain.

Mr. Mostel. Yes.
Mr. Doyle. You remember hearing Mr. Tavenner say that?

Mr. Mostel. Yes, I do. Mr. Doyle. I noticed your answer. I wrote it down. I think it is almost verbatim. I don't think I missed more than 1 or 2 words, if any. Here was your interesting answer. It was voluntary, too:

It is a far cry from the claim that the sole aim of the Communist Party is to overthrow the Government by force and violence.

That, to me, is quite significant, I am frank to say, Witness. remember making that statement?

Mr. Mostel. Yes.

Mr. Doyle. Why did you make that voluntary statement? That was not an issue here. We were asking you about George Hall's entertainment. We were not asking about force and violence.

Mr. Mostel. If I remember correctly, Mr. Tavenner did not ask

me a question at the time, I just volunteered.

Mr. Doyle. I know you volunteered. But why were you so anxious and prompt to volunteer the statement that this matter of entertainment was a far cry from the claim that the Communist Party advocated overthrow of the Government by force and violence? Why did

you volunteer that?

Mr. Mostel. Well, I volunteered because from what I have read this committee believed that that is the sole aim of the Communist Party, and here suddenly came a new aim, which I was curious about and I remarked on it, from curiosity on my part. And I'm sorry I said anything.

Mr. Doyle. Well, I assure you that it was a very interesting curios-

ity to me.

Mr. Jackson. Mr. Chairman, the record should reflect that not only does this committee have reason to believe that the Communist Party as such advocates the overthrow of the Government by force and violence, but that finding has been made in a number of courts where Smith Act defendants were on trial. So it is not peculiar to this committee to believe that.

Mr. Doyle. And of course, Mr. Jackson, my recollection is that under the Smith Act in all the 9 or 10 jury trials in our country in the last 3 or 4 years every defendant, with the exception of 2, has been

found guilty of violation.

Mr. Gladstein. Let me correct you about that, too, sir.

Mr. Doyle. I may be in error numerically, but only by a few.

Mr. GLADSTEIN. Those verdicts are against the individuals on trial in those cases.

Mr. Doyle. Mr. Mostel, I realize the law says that there is no inference to be deduced by the witness' answer, that he ever was a member of the Communist Party unless he says he was. But I cannot help but feel, Witness, that there was a time when you were a member of the Communist Party in my own personal opinion from your testimony, because when you came into the room you were not a member of the Communist Party according to your own testimony.

Mr. Mostel. That is a feeling, not knowledge. Mr. Doyle. That is a feeling. It is not a conclusion; it is not my personal knowledge.

Mr. Gladstein. You must be aware of Harvey Matusow, and others

like him, who admitted that they falsely charged membership.

Mr. Doyle. Harvey Matusow is not before this committee. I am making a frank statement to another American citizen.

Mr. Gladstein. I understand that, and every American citizen must be aware of the dangers of prosecution and persecution.

Mr. Jackson. Order, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Doyle. Just a moment, Mr. Gladstein.

Mr. GLADSTEIN. I'm sorry.

Mr. Mostel. Don't fight, boys. Mr. Doyle. Now, we have had so many witnesses before us who have said they were not members of the Communist Party when they

appeared before the committee; but inferentially, to me as an individual, when they answer that way they were members of the Communist Party at some time. I am not speaking for the committee. I am speaking just as an individual member of it.

Mr. Mostel. Isn't it Justice Warren's decision—I forget the

Mr. Doyle. You mean in one of the three recent cases?

Mr. Mostel. Where it says you must not infer anything of that nature. If it is a man's private affairs, he has private reasons for doing what he does do.

Mr. Doyle. That is right, and I am glad you are familiar with those

three decisions, because-

Mr. Mostel. I am not familiar; I am casually acquainted. Mr. Doyle. Yes; casually. Well, we followed those decisions for years. That is nothing new for us, those three recent decisions.

May I say this to you: Now, you are in a great field-

Mr. Mostel. Sometimes. Mr. Doyle. You are in a great field of entertainment of the American public. From now on why don't you get far removed from groups that are known to be Communist dominated or Communist controlled, that sort of thing! Why don't you get so far away from them that the American public will never have any possible claim to think you ever were or ever in the future are a member of the Communist Party?

Mr. Mostel. I have—

Mr. Doyle. Why don't you remove yourself far away from that atmosphere, sir? You can be a much better inspiration and joy to the American people if they just know that there is not a drop, not an inkpoint, not a penpoint of a favorable attitude by you toward the

Communist conspiracy.

Mr. Mostel. My dear friend, I believe in the antiquated idea that a man works in his profession according to his ability rather than his political beliefs. When I entertain, my political beliefs are not spouted. As a matter of fact, I am casual about my political beliefs, which I wouldn't tell anybody, unless you are my friend and you are in my house.

Mr. Doyle. I am not asking about—

Mr. Mostel. And I have bad instant coffee I make, I'll tell you

Mr. Doyle. I am not asking about your political beliefs.

Mr. Mostel. My dear friend, I believe in the idea that a human being should go on the stage and entertain to the best of his ability and whatever he wants to say, because we live, I hope, in an atmos-

phere of freedom in this country.

Mr. Doyle. That's right, and we will fight for your right to think as you please and be as you please and do as you please, provided you do it within the four corners of the Constitution. Don't you think it is your duty as a great entertainer to at least find out hereafter where the money you help raise is going, whether or not it is going to some subversive cause against the constitutional form of government in our Nation? Don't you think, after this sort of hearing at least, if not before, seeing the effect of these documents appearing in public, don't you think you ought---

Mr. Mostel. Well, you see, I have such a private opinion, which,

honestly, I can't speak about these documents.

Mr. Jackson. Mr. Chairman, may I say that I can think of no greater way to parade one's political beliefs than to appear under the auspices of Mainstream, a Communist publication, on the same program, the same platform, as it is alleged here—you have refused to state whether or not you actually did so appear—with Dalton Trumbo, Hans Eisler, John Howard Lawson, W. E. B. DuBois, Dorothy Parker, Howard Fast, and Zero Mostel.

That program to me speaks volumes as to why you are here. Communist propaganda cannot exist without the funds that are derived from programs of this kind, and I daresay that your name on these many things for which Communist funds were being raised for Communist purposes bolstered and furthered those purposes whether or

not you appeared.

Mr. Mostel. I appreciate your opinion very much, but I do want to say that—I don't know, you know—I still stand on my grounds, and maybe it is unwise and unpolitic for me to say this: If I appeared there, what if I did an imitation of a butterfly at rest? Therefore, I was not—there is no crime in making anybody laugh. I don't care if you laugh at me.

Mr. Jackson. If your interpretation of a butterfly at rest brought any money into the coffers of the Communist Party, you contributed directly to the propaganda effort of the Communist Party. Now,

there is where it is important.

Mr. Mostel. Suppose I had the urge to do the butterfly at rest

somewhere?

Mr. Doyle. Yes; but please, when you have the urge, don't have such an urge to put the butterfly at rest by putting some money in the Communist Party coffers as a result of that urge to put the butterfly to rest. Put the bug to rest somewhere else next time.

Mr. Jackson. I suggest we put this hearing butterfly to rest.

Mr. Gladstein. Just to straighten out the record, may I say, Congressman Jackson, that I don't see on that anything about the Communist Party as such. It says it was under the auspices of Mainstream.

Mr. Jackson. Mainstream. The tickets, however, were on sale, significantly enough, at the Jefferson Book Shop, which I believe is a notorious Communist book shop, and the Workers Book Shop. They were not on sale at Macy's basement.

Mr. Mostel. They might have been.

Mr. JACKSON. Or at the public library. If they were, they did not advertise it.

Mr. Chairman, I move we adjourn.

Mr. Gladstein. Is the witness excused, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. Doyle. The witness is excused. Thank you, Mr. Mostel. Remember what I said to you.

Mr. Mostel. You remember what I said to you.

(Thereupon, at 11:50 a. m., October 14, 1955, the hearing was adjourned.)

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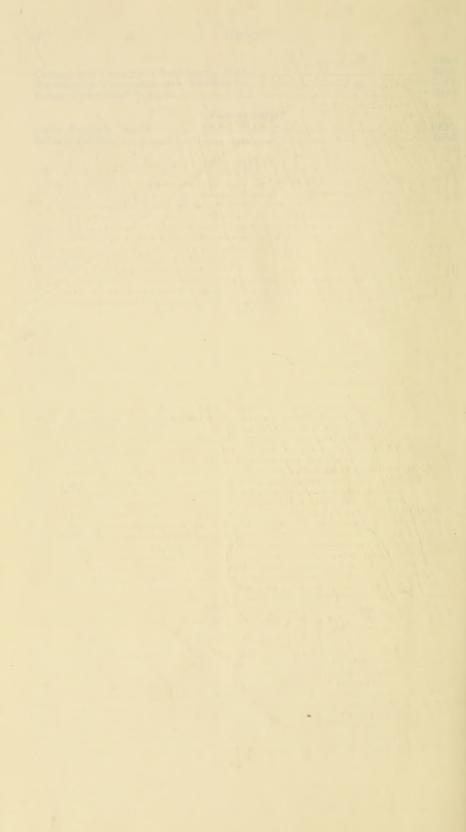
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